

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, AL

SUBJECT: ALBANIAN RIFT WITH CHINA

REF: USNATO 7257

1. NOTING JULY 26 DISCUSSION ON SUBJECT (REFTEL), MISSION
SHOULD CIRCULATE IN POLADS FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT.
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2. BEGIN TEXT:

SUBJECT: ALBANIAN RIFT WITH CHINA

A. ALBANIA'S RECENT POLEMICS AGAINST CHINA SURFACED ITS
REJECTION OF THE CHINESE POLICY OF INCREASED CONTACT WITH

THE WEST. ALBANIA'S CONTINUED NEED FOR CHINESE ASSISTANCE AND TRADE MOST LIKELY WILL PREVENT A TOTAL BREAK OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. MEANWHILE, THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY POSSIBILITY OF AN ALBANIAN RECONCILIATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND ALBANIAN ATTEMPTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE US ARE ALSO UNLIKELY.

B. THE PRESENT STATE OF FORMAL SINO-ALBANIAN RELATIONS IS NOT CLEAR. BOTH SIDES HAVE DENIED REPORTS THAT THEY ARE HEADED FOR A DIPLOMATIC BREAK, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A RECIPROCAL WITHDRAWAL OF AMBASSADORS EARLY THIS YEAR. REPORTS THAT THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT HAS INFORMED THE CHINESE THAT THE AGREEMENT ON CHINESE TECHNICIANS WORKING IN ALBANIA WILL NOT BE RENEWED SOUND VERY PLAUSIBLE.

C. ALBANIAN PARTY LEADER HOXHA CAPPED HIS GROWING RIFT WITH CHINA BY ATTACKING MAO'S "THREE WORLD" THESIS AND BY CHARACTERIZING THE HUA REGIME AS REVISIONIST. TENG'S REHABILITATION AND, EVEN MORE, THE FORTHCOMING VISIT TO CHINA OF MARSHAL TITO--HOXHA'S ARCH-ENEMY--PROBABLY CONFIRMED HOXHA IN HIS VIEW THAT CHINA HAD CEASED TO BE "REVOLUTIONARY." OTHER FACTORS ALSO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE GROWING ESTRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES:

--PEKING'S DRASTIC REDUCTION OF ECONOMIC AID AND, POSSIBLY, CONFIDENTIAL

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TRADE;

--THE FALL OF THE "GANG OF FOUR," WHOSE VIEWS MORE CLOSELY COINCIDED WITH THOSE OF HOXHA; AND

--ALBANIAN ACTIONS DENIGRATING THE CHINESE AMONG THE SPLINTER MAOIST PARTIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND SEEKING TO ENLIST THEM IN A PRO-ALBANIAN "INTERNATIONAL" OPPOSED TO MOSCOW AND PEKING.

D. SHOULD THERE BE A SERIOUS BREACH IN RELATIONS WITH CHINA, ALBANIA WILL BE HARD PRESSED--SINCE OTHER SOURCES FOR AID AND TRADE ARE LIMITED BECAUSE OF SELF-IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS AGAINST ACCEPTING "CAPITALIST" CREDITS. IN SPITE OF THIS, THE HOXHA REGIME APPEARS MORE STRONGLY ENTRENCHED THAN EVER, FOLLOWING A SERIES OF PURGES OF OPPONENTS DURING 1973-76. THE ALBANIANS HAVE SUFFERED BELT-TIGHTENING MEASURES AND CRISES BEFORE, THOUGH NEVER HAS ALBANIA BEEN AS ISOLATED AS NOW.

END TEXT

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